



INFO-ALERT

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INFO-ALERT brings to your attention a selection of abstracts of current articles and new materials from American publications on current political, economic, social issues and trends in the United States. These materials are available upon request from the **Information Resource Center**.

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POLITICS & INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

1. **MEETING THE 21ST CENTURY SECURITY CHALLENGES IN ASIA**

Peter Brookes

Heritage Lecture #913, November 28, 2005, 4 pages

Asia is rife with major security challenges for the United States. A one-size military or defense policy is certainly not going to fit all of the defense and security challenges that the United States faces in Asia over the coming decades. Congress and Administration policymakers must take this into account as the United States develops its 21st century force structure and its defense and security policy.

2. **STRATEGIC HEDGING AND THE FUTURE OF ASIA-PACIFIC STABILITY**

Evan S. Medeiros

Washington Quarterly, Autumn 2005/06, 23 pages

The United States and China are shadowboxing each other for influence and status in the Asia Pacific, and policymakers in each nation are hedging their security bets about the other. In this article, Evan Medeiros, a political scientist at the RAND Corporation, examines the hedging strategies of both nations, analyzes the drives of this hedging behavior, assesses the risks and complications for both countries, and recommends ways to avoid those risks as the two nations collectively seek to shape the evolving security architecture in Asia.

3. **GLOBAL GOVERNANCE FOR THE 21ST CENTURY**

Colin I. Bradford

Brookings Institution Paper, October 24, 2005, 30 pages

According to Colin Bradford, Visiting Fellow at the Brookings Institution, the central challenge of the 21st century is that the institutional framework for dealing with contemporary global challenges does not match the scope, scale and nature of the challenges themselves. He proposes a strong push toward international institutional reform, saying global governance based on national leaders is critical to addressing the inter-linkages among major issues on the global agenda and shaping the new inter-institutional relationships necessary to deal with them.

4. **COME THE REVOLUTION: TRANSFORMING THE ASIA-PACIFIC'S MILITARIES**

Richard A. Bitzinger

Naval War College Review, Autumn 2005, 22 pages

Richard Bitzinger, Associate Professor with the Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies in Honolulu, discusses defense transformation as a "revolution in military affairs" and lists the characteristics of a transformed force. This article specifically addresses the process, problems, and prospects for defense transformation in the Asia-Pacific region.

5. **GRAND STRATEGIES FOR DEALING WITH OTHER STATES IN THE NEW, NEW WORLD ORDER**

James F. Miskel

Naval War College Review, Winter 2005, 10 pages

James Miskel, associate dean of academics at the Naval War College, analyzes the allocation of American security-related assistance to other states. He concludes that it would be most effective to base this allocation upon the other country's potential contribution to specific efforts in the war on terrorism. Currently, state-to-state assistance programs are allocated on the basis of assumptions about the role a particular nation plays in the global war on terrorism. Countries are categorized as either pivotal, buffer or failing states and aid is allocated accordingly. This approach is inconsistent with the security threat that the United States faces in the early twenty-first century.

ECONOMICS & TRADE

6. **REGIONAL STRATEGIES FOR GLOBAL LEADERSHIP**

Pankaj Ghemawat

Harvard Business Review, December 11 pages

Global companies often make the mistake of setting out to create a worldwide strategy, says Pankaj Ghemawat, professor of Business Administration at Harvard Business School in Boston. He contends that better results could come from applying regional-oriented strategies and integrating them into a global one. He recommends five approaches that can promote trade success in a highly regionalized world.

7. **A MARKET FOR IDEAS: A SURVEY OF PATENTS AND TECHNOLOGY**

Kenneth Cukier

The Economist, October 22, 2005, 5 pages

In recent years intellectual property has received more attention because ideas and innovations have become the most important resource, replacing land, energy and raw materials. As much as three-quarters of the value of publicly traded companies in America comes from intangible assets, up from around 40% in the early 1980s. In information technology and telecoms in particular, the role of intellectual property has changed radically. The legitimacy of many patents granted is in question as patent offices struggle with the huge increase in demand. As the system of intellectual property evolves, the ethos seems to be that if a little is good, then more is better. But that is a large assumption. There is even a body of evidence to suggest it is flatly wrong. The technology industry faces the question of whether today's abundance of patents may be clogging up the gears of innovation, rather than lubricating them.

8. **THE QUESTIONABLE LEGACY OF ALAN GREENSPAN**

Thomas Palley

Challenge, November/December 2005, 15 pages

Federal Reserve Board Chairman Alan Greenspan will retire soon, sparking the publication of many analyses, most of them swooning. Thomas Palley offers an original and perhaps lasting postmortem on Greenspan's reign. He believes that Greenspan has been responsible for a new business cycle founded on financial boom and cheap imports. The resulting borrowing is not a basis for stable future growth. Ideas are the spectacles through which people see the world, and different spectacles reveal a different world. Progressive political leaders and policy advisers, critical of the legacy of Chairman Greenspan, would do well to recognize this reality as they attempt to chart a new course in the post-Greenspan era.

9. **THE MAN WHO INVENTED MANAGEMENT**

John A. Byrne and Jim Collins

Business Week, November 28, 2005, 8 pages

The story of Peter Drucker is the story of management itself. Without his analysis it's almost impossible to imagine the rise of dispersed, globe-spanning corporations. His teachings form a blueprint for every thinking leader. He taught generations of managers the importance of picking the best people, of focusing on opportunities and not problems, of getting on the same side of the desk as your customer, of understanding your competitive advantages and continuing to refine them. He believed that talented people were the essential ingredient of every successful enterprise. Well before his death, Drucker had already become a legend. The authors profile Peter Drucker and explain why his ideas still matter.

SOCIAL ISSUES & VALUES, EDUCATION & THE ARTS

10. **CULTURAL DIVERSITY AND LIBERAL SOCIETY: A CASE FOR REPRIVATIZING CULTURE**

Suri Ratnapala

Independent Review, Fall 2005, 24 pages

Cultural diversity is an enduring fact of social life, even in the most homogenous of countries. It is difficult to find a social system more tolerant of cultural diversity than liberal society, yet not all cultures are compatible with liberalism in the classical sense, and the failure to recognize this fact may imperil liberal society. In this article, Suri Ratnapala, a professor of law, identifies the fundamental value of liberal society and discusses the appropriate liberal responses to certain key questions that cultural diversity poses.

11. **HIGHER EDUCATION 2015**

Chronicle of Higher Education, November 25, 2005, 25 pages

In this feature article, higher education experts share their visions of American academe 10 years from now. Issues discussed include the future of small liberal-arts colleges, student aid, fund raising, research, for-profit colleges, tenure, enrollments, and global expansion.

12. **BOOMER CENTURY**

Joshua Zeitz

American Heritage, October 2005, 18 pages

What is going to happen when the most prosperous, best-educated generation in the U.S. history finally grows up? The author discusses how the Baby Boom generation changed everything.

13. EDUCATION SEARCHERS BEYOND ERIC: GOVERNMENT POLICIES, TEACHING, AND TECHNOLOGY

Barbie Keiser

Searcher, November/December 2005, 9 pages

Barbie Keiser, an information resources management consultant, combines text and extensive tables to give readers a representative sampling of educational Web resources available from academic institutions, worldwide government agencies, nonprofit organizations, and commercial enterprises to serve the needs of educators, students, and parents alike.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

14. BLACK AND WHITE AND DEAD ALL OVER: ARE NEWSPAPERS HEADED 6 FEET UNDER?

Paula Berinstein

Searcher, November/December 2005, 8 pages

Are newspapers dying? Paula Berinstein, Consultant, Berinstein Research, looks at the evolution of newspapers, reader demographics, the impact of the Web on print subscriptions and advertising, and the changing face of the news itself.

15. ANOTHER PHINE KETTLE OF PHISH: IDENTITY THEFT PREVENTION

Carol Ebbinghouse

Searcher, November/December 2005, 11 pages

Carol Ebbinghouse, a law librarian, details the ways your identity can be snatched. She provides very specific lists of do's and don'ts to reduce the risk of being victimized as well as actions to take if your identity is stolen or compromised.

16. THE WEB SMART 50

Heather Green, et al.

Business Week, November 21, 2005, 12 pages

The article presents an introduction to a series of reports on Web technologies and business. The Web is finding its way into businesses around the world and having an impact on companies. Schools, public bus systems and local governments are also using the Web to reshape operations. Web technologies play a number of roles in industry. Some companies are employing innovations to reinvent their operations from the inside, profoundly altering the business landscape.

17. KILLER MAPS

Wade Roush

Technology Review, October 2005, 6 pages

Google, Microsoft, and Yahoo are racing to transform online maps into full-blown browsers, organizing information and advertisements according to geography. The mapping revolution could, in short, change the way people think of the World Wide Web. Geotagging means the Web is slowly being wedded with real space, enhancing physical places with information that can deepen people's experiences of them and making computing into a more "continuous" part of their real lives. Wade Rush, senior editor, provides a look at this newest development and the benefits to global traders and consumers.